

REMARKS

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C §102

The Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-20, 25-28 and 34-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takeuchi, JP 09-108431, is respectfully traversed.

Takeuchi, quite simply, does not disclose a plurality of attractors linked together, wherein each attractor is respectively associated with an individual machine, as now more clearly recited in amended independent Claims 1, 8, 14, 25 and 34. The Examiner has noted that the features upon which Applicants rely are not recited in the claims. Applicants have now specified that an attractor is associated with a particular machine (not on a common island or mobile between machines as in the prior art). These amendments should now make the distinctions evident.

Takeuchi discloses a single "lucky character", or combination of lucky characters, associated with a group of machines and capable of directing its actions and sounds toward any one of the pachinko or gaming machines. The lucky characters are positioned in a home position and upon a signal input (grand prize), the lucky character moves in a longitudinal direction to the winning gaming machine. The moving mechanism mimics a conveyor-type movement, and is described in reference to figures 7 and 8. Takeuchi further discloses that the lucky characters can rotate.

The most distinctive feature between Takeuchi and the present invention is the gaming machines of Takeuchi do not have a lucky character respectively associated with *each* machine nor are the lucky characters linked together. Further, the present invention discloses gaming

machines linked such that if a predetermined event occurs on any one of the gaming machines, then the attraction mechanisms on *each* linked gaming machine are operated as a group.

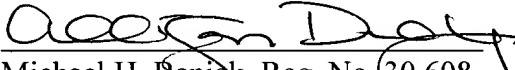
In contrast to Applicant's foregoing Claims, the Takeuchi patent does not disclose or suggest a plurality of attraction mechanisms respectively associated with *each* gaming machine and further operating all attraction mechanisms as a group when a predetermined event occurs on any one of the gaming machines as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 8, 14, 25 and 34.

A Notice of Allowability is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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